

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00514 020741Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 /077 W

-----085812 020744Z /23

R 010401Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CONFIDENTIAL MANAMA 0514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, BA, SA

SUBJECT: MARCH ARABIC LEAGUE MEETING: BAHRAIN HAS PROPOSED
CHANGE OF VENUE

1. I ASKED FOREIGN MINISTER FEB 28 IF HE FELT SCHEDULED
MARCH 27 MEETING OF ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD
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TAKE PLACE. HE REPLIED THAT IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT, AT
LEAST NOT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, BUT THAT IT SHOULD.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT HE HAS PROPOSED TO SAUDIS
THAT SAG ISSUE INVITATION TO HOLD MARCH 27 MEETING IN
RIYADH. PROPOSAL MADE TO SAUDI MFA UNDERSECRETARY AL-
FHUNAYAN DURING HIS FEB 17 VISIT TO BAHRAIN; NO ANSWER

RECEIVED TO DATE. FONMIN SAID HE FELT IT VERY IMPORTANT IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES THAT REGULARLY SCHEDULED ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS TAKE PLACE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SOME ARAB MEETINGS HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED BY SPLIT OVER SADAT'S INITIATIVE, FONMIN SAID OAPEC MEETING HERE IN DECEMBER, FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING IN TUNIS TEN DAYS AGO, AND OTHER MEETINGS HAVE GONE WELL. HE SAID HE HOPED THERE WOULD BE A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN MARCH BUT THAT HE DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE UNLESS SAUDIS ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL AND USE THEIR INFLUENCE TO HAVE BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT ATTEND.

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Message Attributes

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